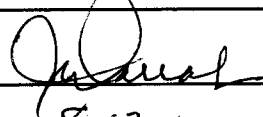


United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Name of Assigned Judge or Magistrate Judge	JOHN W. DARRAH	Sitting Judge if Other than Assigned Judge	
CASE NUMBER	12 C 4554	DATE	8-13-12
CASE TITLE	Reginald BoClair (#B-39522) vs. Michael P. Atchison, et al.		

DOCKET ENTRY TEXT:

The petitioner's motion "for cause" [#8] is granted. The respondent is ordered to answer the petition or otherwise plead within twenty-one days of the date of this order. The petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel [#4] is denied as premature. On the court's own motion, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is dismissed as a respondent.

■ [For further details see text below.]

Docketing to mail notices.

STATEMENT

Reginald BoClair, an Illinois state prisoner, has filed a *pro se* petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. The petitioner challenges his 1992 conviction for first degree murder on the grounds that: (1) his guilt was not established beyond a reasonable doubt; (2) counsel was ineffective; (3) he was subjected to a "vindictive" prosecution; and (4) the State committed unremedied discovery violations.

By Minute Order of June 21, 2012, the court granted the petitioner's motion for leave to proceed *in forma pauperis* but ordered him to show cause why his petition for a writ of habeas corpus should not be dismissed as untimely. In response, the petitioner asserts that he made a "printing mistake," and seems to indicate that properly filed state court proceedings have been pending since his original date of conviction. A review of Westlaw confirms that the Illinois Supreme Court denied a petition for leave to appeal on November 30, 2011, within one year of initiation of the federal habeas corpus action. See *People v. BoClair*, 356 Ill. Dec. 798 (2011). Accordingly, the petitioner's motion "for cause" is granted.

The respondent is ordered to answer the petition or otherwise plead within twenty-one days of the date this order is entered on the clerk's docket. This preliminary order to respond does not, of course, preclude the State from making whatever waiver, exhaustion or timeliness arguments it may wish to present.

The petitioner is instructed to file all future papers concerning this action with the Clerk of Court in care of the Prisoner Correspondent. **The petitioner is once again reminded that he must provide the court with**

(CONTINUED)

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
CLERK

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STATEMENT (continued)

the original plus a judge's copy (including a complete copy of any exhibits) of every document filed. In addition, the petitioner must send an exact copy of any court filing to the Chief, Criminal Appeals Division, Attorney General's Office, 100 West Randolph Street, 12th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Every document filed by the petitioner must include a certificate of service stating to whom exact copies were sent and the date of mailing. Any paper that is sent directly to the judge or that otherwise fails to comply with these instructions may be disregarded by the court or returned to the petitioner.

The petitioner's motion for appointment of counsel is denied at this time as premature. Counsel must be appointed in a habeas corpus proceeding only if an evidentiary hearing is needed or if interests of justice so require. *See* Rule 8(c), Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. Whether the interests of justice require appointment of counsel in this case cannot be determined until after the court has had an opportunity to review and consider the respondent's answer to the petition.

Finally, on the court's own motion, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is dismissed as a respondent. *See Hogan v. Hanks*, 97 F.3d 189, 190 (7th Cir. 1996), *cert. denied*, 520 U.S. 1171 (1997) (a state's attorney general is a proper party in a habeas petition only if the petitioner is not then confined); *see also* Rules 2(a) and (b) of Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases. In this case, the petitioner is not challenging a future sentence, but rather his present confinement. Therefore, Illinois' Attorney General is not a proper respondent.